

Annual Report

2024-25

Ministry of Government Relations

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Letters of Transmittal



The Honourable Eric Schmalz
Minister of Government Relations
and Minister Responsible for
First Nations, Métis and
Northern Affairs

Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

I respectfully submit the Annual Report for the Ministry of
Government Relations for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Schmalz".

Eric Schmalz
Minister of Government Relations and
Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs



Laurier Donais
Deputy Minister of
Government Relations and
Deputy Minister for
First Nations, Métis and
Northern Affairs

The Honourable Eric Schmalz, Minister of Government Relations
and Minister Responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern
Affairs

Dear Minister:

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of the Ministry
of Government Relations for the fiscal year ending March 31,
2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurier Donais".

Laurier Donais
Deputy Minister of Government Relations and
Deputy Minister for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs

Ministry of Government Relations Overview

The Ministry of Government Relations is responsible for municipal relations; building and technical standards; First Nation, Métis and northern affairs; and the Provincial Capital Commission. The ministry engages a diverse range of partners and stakeholders to plan for and respond to the opportunities and challenges of growth, provide leadership and direction so that integrated public services are available to communities and their residents and support responsible governments.

The ministry's full-time equivalent (FTE) utilization in 2024-25 was 165.2 FTEs.

Legislation

The Amusement Ride Safety Act
The Assessment Appraisers Act
The Assessment Management Agency Act
The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act, 1999
The Border Areas Act
The Cities Act
The City of Lloydminster Act
The Community Planning Profession Act, 2013
The Construction Codes Act
The Education Property Tax Act
The Electrical Inspection Act, 1993
The Electrical Licensing Act
The Flin-Flon Extension of Boundaries Act, 1952
The Gas Inspection Act, 1993
The Gas Licensing Act
The Government Relations Administration Act
The Indian and Native Affairs Act
The Local Government Election Act, 2015
The Local Improvements Act, 1993
The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Act

The Métis Act
The Municipal Board Act
The Municipal Expropriation Act
The Municipal Grants Act
The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Act
The Municipalities Act
The Northern Municipalities Act, 2010
The Passenger and Freight Elevator Act
The Planning and Development Act, 2007
The Rural Municipal Administrators Act
The Saskatchewan Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (Treaty Land Entitlement) Act
The Tax Enforcement Act
The Technical Safety Authority of Saskatchewan Act
The Time Act
The Treaty Land Entitlement Implementation Act
The Urban Municipal Administrators Act
The Urban Municipality Act, 1984

View the ministry's 2024-25 Business Plan at www.saskatchewan.ca/government-relations.

Progress on Goal 1: Citizens live in safe, well-governed and sustainable communities that support economic growth.

Strong local governments lead to strong communities. Municipalities are the frontline government for all residents and their work and decisions are directly connected to the high quality of life enjoyed throughout our province. Government Relations works to support local governments with investments, information and tools to serve their residents and partner with neighbouring communities, which leads to a vibrant and healthy Saskatchewan for all.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*

Draft effective legislation, regulations, codes, standards and frameworks that define and support municipal decisions and responsibilities.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Review municipal legislation and regulations for policy and process improvements that support good local governance, more community collaboration, administrative efficiency and local economic competitiveness.
 - In 2024-25, the ministry put forward 13 guiding documents for approval and posted 34 informational items on legislative, regulatory and policy matters for municipal councils and administrations. This is an increase of 23 posted information items compared to last year.
- Develop and distribute information and materials to support property owners, industry, municipalities, building officials and other codes users in the construction of safe, healthy, habitable and energy-efficient buildings.
 - In 2024-25, the ministry made 34 presentations to 1,897 stakeholders through in person workshops and webinars, an increase of seven additional presentations and 317 participating stakeholders when compared to last year. These presentations included material on construction codes and the legislative, regulatory and policy framework under which they are delivered.
- Work with stakeholders to ensure legislation, regulations, codes and standards meet the needs of owners, municipalities, industry and regulatory officials.
 - As of March 31, 2025, 693 local authorities in Saskatchewan have adopted their own building bylaw with the remainder using the model building bylaw found in The Building Code Regulations.
 - Codes, standards and the licensing of qualified individuals provide for consistency in our built environment. In 2024-25, there were 177 licensed building officials, an increase of nine over the previous year. Consistent application of codes and standards and inspection by building officials enables the construction of safe, healthy, habitable buildings.
- Protect people and property through the Integrated Subdivision Approval Program.
 - The ministry approved 1,377 subdivision sites in 2024-25.
 - For every dollar spent on the program in 2024-25, approximately \$212 in potential land development is created and approximately \$34 in development is protected from hazard lands.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*
Improve municipal transparency and accountability.

Key Actions: What we did to get there

- Support municipal administration and governance by helping municipalities meet their legislated responsibilities and strengthen local transparency and accountability.
 - The ministry monitors municipal compliance with six basic legislative requirements through its compliance monitoring framework.
 - In 2024-25, the ministry recorded 1,080 attendees at 12 ministry-conducted education and training sessions.
 - In 2024-25, the ministry responded to 6,445 inquiries on municipal advisory services, including requirements for compliance to the Act. This represents an increase of 1,151 or 21.5 per cent over last year. The increase is primarily attributed to it being an election year. The information provided contributed to municipal leaders and administrators increasing their public transparency, building trust and demonstrating accountability.
 - The ministry presented two community planning educational sessions to discuss flooding, appeals, zoning amendments and general planning inquiries.
- Support strong partnerships among municipalities through participation at sector events and facilitation of cross-sector meetings for information sharing and networking.
 - In 2024-25, the ministry held 35 stakeholder perspective/engagement events on these and other legislative and regulatory requirements and improvements. This is an increase of 19 events over last year.
- Invest in the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency to ensure timely taxable assessments and sustain municipal and provincial education property tax revenues.
 - The government invested an additional \$900,000 to help the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency retain its long-term goal of increasing property inspections. In 2024, 106,203 property reviews and inspections were completed. This is an increase of 12,553 or 13.4 per cent over the previous review.
- Review program requirements compliance for provincially administered community grants.
 - The ministry oversees the annual eligibility requirements for municipalities to receive their unconditional Municipal Revenue Sharing grants. Municipalities annually report their compliance with the eligibility requirements to the ministry by completing an online Declaration of Eligibility form. More than 98 per cent of municipalities were eligible to receive Municipal Revenue Sharing in 2024-25. 756 out of 774 municipalities were eligible to receive all or a portion of the Municipal Revenue Sharing eligibility grants.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*

Improve essential community infrastructure, services and strategies to support municipal sustainability.

Key Actions: What we did to get there

- Administer community infrastructure investments through government programs such as the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program, Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, Canada Community-Building Fund and Transit-Assistance for People with Disabilities Program.
 - To support municipal infrastructure and services, the ministry distributed \$175.1 million for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program,

\$339.7 million for the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program, \$65.1 million for the Canada Community-Building Fund, \$14.1 million for Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes, \$5.1 million for the New Building Canada Fund and \$3.8 million for the Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities Program.

- Allocate \$1.5 million in the Targeted Sector Support Initiative with municipal associations to encourage inter-community collaboration, help build capacity of core municipal responsibilities and promote good governance.
 - In 2024-25, \$1.5 million was provided to municipalities and their partners for 22 applications to support projects involving partnering Saskatchewan communities.
 - The projects included municipal governance training, regional cooperation with First Nations Governments, digital safety plan, official community plans and zoning bylaws, collaborative asset management and development, and governance documents for incorporation of fire rescue services.
- Negotiate the renewal of infrastructure programs with federal partners including the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF).
 - In July 2024, Canada and Saskatchewan renewed the Canada Community-Building Fund program for 10 years to 2034, effective as of April 1, 2024. As part of the renewed CCBF agreement, Canada introduced new requirements linking access to federal infrastructure funding with actions taken by provincial and municipal governments to increase housing supply and affordability across the province. As of March 31, 2025, 751 of 767 municipalities or 98 per cent have signed a CCBF Municipal Funding Agreement with the province.
 - In February 2025, Saskatchewan finalized a 10-year agreement with the federal government under the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF). Under the CHIF, funding is available to support long-term infrastructure priorities that will directly enable new housing supply. Eligible project categories include drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and solid waste management systems. Saskatchewan will receive \$187.9 million in federal funding, and the province has committed to a matching contribution of approximately \$156.5 million.
- Govern and provide municipal services to northerners living in the unorganized areas in the north by acting as council for the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District.
 - The Northern Engagement Unit and Northern Municipal Services Branch work with partners to ensure that the Government of Saskatchewan is informed of the challenges and opportunities faced by northern communities and considers northern perspectives in government initiatives and policies.
 - The ministry supports northern infrastructure projects through programs such as Northern Municipal Trust Account (NMTA) programs, including the Northern Water and Sewer Program and the Northern Capital Grant Program.
 - In 2024, \$36.2 million or five per cent increase was expensed through NMTA to support the Northern Capital Grant Program and operational core services.
 - The ministry manages the delivery costs of core services such as administration, water and sewer operations, transportation and landfills through Northern Municipal Revenue Sharing.
 - Approximately 7,000 northerners receive essential municipal services necessary for health, safety and quality of life.
- Strengthen regional planning by supporting existing municipalities through education and training materials and encourage continued intermunicipal cooperation and partnerships.
 - In 2024-25, the ministry recorded 1,353 attendees at the educational and training sessions in addition to two community planning workshops and four

webinars. These training opportunities targeted municipal administrators to assist municipalities in meeting their legislative responsibilities and to understand the role of Saskatchewan municipalities.

- Review and approve community planning bylaws and subdivisions to support critical infrastructure and services.
 - The ministry approved 52 new official community plans and zoning bylaws, an increase of four over last year.
 - The ministry approved 67 official community plan amendments, 161 rural municipality zoning bylaw amendments, and filed 125 urban zoning bylaw amendments. This supports the growth management strategy for municipalities, essential in managing future growth and development of the community.
- Support creation of municipal districts and other forms of voluntary municipal restructuring.
 - The ministry assisted communities interested in learning about creating municipal districts and other forms of voluntary municipal restructuring. In 2024-25, no municipal districts were formed and one restructuring as inclusion was completed. As March 31, 2025, five additional communities initiated the restructuring process.
- Support the adoption of energy-efficient building construction through the development of skills, capacity, quality and compliance with energy codes by industry, municipalities, First Nations, and building officials.
 - The ministry presented to 1,897 stakeholders at educational and training sessions regarding building standards matters. This includes safety, accessibility, fire protection, changes to model codes, administration and enforcement with Saskatchewan legislative frameworks.
 - The ministry withdrew from the federal Codes Acceleration funding agreement to provide greater alignment with neighbouring provinces, to ensure housing remains affordable and to address stakeholder concerns about the industry being ready to implement higher energy efficient requirements. The ministry will undertake additional consultations and collaboration with stakeholders prior to any future increase in energy efficiency requirements in new building construction

Performance Measure Results:

Municipal transparency and accountability

- Percentage of municipalities that meet eligibility requirements for the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program.
 - More than 98 per cent of municipalities were eligible to receive Municipal Revenue Sharing in the 2024-25 fiscal year.
 - Municipalities complying with other governance and safety requirements including board of revision certification, use of tax tools and appointment of building officials.
 - The Provincial Registrar for the Board of Revision achieved an 86 per cent participant registration and completion rate for Board of Revision training and more than 99 per cent of municipalities were served by a Certified Board of Revision.
- Percentage of population covered under planning and building bylaws.
 - More than 93 per cent of Saskatchewan's population was covered under planning bylaws in 2024-25.
 - 81 per cent of local authorities have adopted their own building bylaws.

Government and community priorities

- Number of approved community infrastructure projects supported this year by ministry-administered grant programs.
 - In 2024-25, 813 infrastructure projects were approved (427 in Q1, 143 in Q2, 172 in Q3 and 71 in Q4). This is an increase of 181 over last year.
- Number of completed community infrastructure projects supported this year by ministry-administered grant program.
 - 308 community infrastructure projects were completed in 2024-25 (131 in Q1, 37 in Q2, 17 in Q3 and 123 in Q4).

Construction safety

- Number of licensed building officials.
 - On March 31, 2025, there were 177 licensed building officials in Saskatchewan
- Number of building bylaws reviewed and approved.
 - The ministry reviewed and approved 87 building bylaws.
- Number of municipalities that have adopted their own building bylaws.
 - 81 per cent of local authorities have adopted their own building bylaws.

Progress on Goal 2: First Nations, Métis and northern communities fully share in Saskatchewan's benefits and opportunities.

Government Relations works toward this goal by continuing to build and strengthen relationships with First Nation, Métis and northern communities, organizations and other partners, as well as with provincial ministries, agencies, Crown corporations, federal departments and municipalities. This involves honouring government's commitment related to Aboriginal and Treaty rights and engaging with First Nation and Métis people on areas of mutual interest, including government policies and programs.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*

Engage First Nation and Métis communities and government entities to improve policies and programs.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Engage with leaders of First Nation and Métis communities and representative organizations on subjects of mutual interest.
 - In 2024-25, the ministry reached out to First Nations and Métis communities to inform them about the Consultation Participation Fund (CPF) grant processes and respond to related questions. This proactive communication enhanced understanding of the fund requirements and allows for positive relationship building.
 - The ministry recorded 27 engagements providing expertise on northern resource management to partners and clients including community representatives, industry and regulators.
 - The ministry continued to work closely with Indigenous Services Canada and Saskatchewan Aboriginal Land Technicians to help identify barriers and bring forward solutions in the reserve creation process.
 - In 2024-25, the ministry proactively scheduled meetings with First Nations and provincial ministries, providing educational opportunities on key topics such as Crown minerals, mapping and land stewardship. These sessions aimed to enhance understanding and encourage informed decision-making.
- Build relationships with First Nation and Métis communities and industry for effective and meaningful consultations.
 - The ministry developed an outreach approach to build relationships with First Nation and Métis communities, beginning with communities where duty to consult occurs most frequently.
 - In 2024-25, the ministry participated in 38 meetings with First Nation and Métis communities and impacted organizations, including industry, on the CPF.
- Connect northern communities to the mining industry through the Northern Saskatchewan Environment Quality Committee (NSEQC), employment and business opportunities, and human service initiatives.
 - The ministry served 22 northern municipalities and First Nations represented on NSEQC.

- In 2024-25, NSEQC representatives took part in two visits to mining sites, two general meetings for discussions with industry and regulators, and one meeting with a mining corporation's executives.
- Support and advise government ministries, Crowns and agencies on Indigenous and northern engagement, priorities and opportunities.
 - Delivered nine Duty to Consult training sessions to 117 provincial government participants. More than 650 government officials have attended training or information sessions to date on the revised Consultation Policy Framework.
 - Government Relations provided Duty to Consult advice to other provincial ministries and had conversations with First Nation and Métis communities.
 - Government Relations participated in 27 opportunities to engage on northern matters with industry, mining regulators and northern residents to broaden understanding of northern resource development. This included the negotiation of three new Mineral Surface Lease Agreements.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*

Respond to priorities identified by First Nation and Métis leaders and northerners.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Invest in and support initiatives through the First Nations and Métis Sponsorships and Community Partnership Projects funds and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls+ (MMIWG+) Community Response Fund.
 - With \$400,000 in matched funding from Women and Gender Equity Canada, the ministry allocated \$800,000 to 24 MMIWG+ Community Response Fund projects. The fund supports grassroots organizations to address issues raised by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
 - More than \$66,250 was provided for 24 events through First Nations and Métis Sponsorships and \$200,324 was disbursed to support eight projects through the Community Partnership Projects.
- Support the Embracing Life Initiative to reduce the risk of suicide through northern initiatives such as training, emphasizing northern success stories, and providing tools to strengthen resilience and mental health like those provided in the Embracing Life app.
 - The ministry provides secretariat support and strategic co-ordination to the Embracing Life Initiative. The focus of the Embracing Life Initiative is community wellness and reducing suicide. The initiative is comprised of multiple human services agencies, youth and youth representatives.
 - Launched in 2022, the Embracing Life suicide prevention app continued development through 2024-25. It has recorded more than 4,000 downloads resulting in more than an eight per cent increase when compared to last fiscal year, reaching 175 Saskatchewan communities and extending its reach to all Canadian provinces and territories.
 - In December 2024, the Embracing Life's suicide prevention app was recognized by the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) for high standards. It will now be among the first cohort of those acknowledged by the MHCC to meet its standards. Later in 2025, MHCC will include it in a new national library of mental health apps.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*

Honour government's commitments.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Support implementation of the revised First Nation and Métis Consultation and Policy Framework (CPF).
 - The CPF enhances consultation processes, builds meaningful and productive relationships between First Nation and Métis communities, government and proponents, and further contributes to driving economic activity for the benefit of all in Saskatchewan.
 - In 2024-25, the ministry held nine training sessions for government officials and 117 government officials were trained on the CPF. To date, more than 650 government officials have participated in training or information sessions.
 - The ministry filled three new positions that contributed to training and information sessions, relationship-building, monitoring system, and other implementation activities related to the CPF.
- Administer gaming profits based on the Gaming Framework Agreement and applicable legislation.
 - In 2024-25, the ministry paid \$120.6 million to First Nations and Métis organizations under the Gaming Framework Agreement and *The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Act*. Gaming payments to First Nations and Métis organizations support social and economic programs that benefit First Nation and Métis people.
- Negotiate new Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) Agreements and lead provincial collaboration with First Nation partners and Canada to implement existing agreements as well as review approaches to improve First Nation land acquisition processes to deliver on the province's legal obligations.
 - In 2024-25, 4,376 acres were transferred to reserve status. This is a total of 893,182 acres transferred to date under TLE Agreements. Reconciliation with Indigenous people is demonstrated through the negotiation and implementation of TLE Agreements which support First Nation land acquisition of new reserve land under these agreements.

Performance Measure Results:

Engage First Nation and Métis communities and government partners to improve policies and programs.

- Number of events and organized meetings attended where expertise on northern resource management is provided to partners and clients, including community representatives, industry and regulators.
 - The ministry recorded 27 engagements providing expertise on northern resource management to partners and clients, including community representatives, industry and regulators.

Respond to priorities identified by First Nation and Métis leaders.

- Number of grants disbursed under the First Nation and Métis Sponsorships and Community Partnership Projects and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls+ Community Response Fund.
 - Twenty-four Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls+ Community Response Fund projects.
 - Twenty-four sponsorships and eight community partnership projects were approved in 2024-25.

Honouring government's commitments

- Number of grants and funding provided under the First Nation and Métis Consultation Participation Fund.
 - In 2024-25, \$1.48 million was provided under the fund. This includes \$1.39 million for 186 grants approved in the fiscal year, and \$95,000 for 51 second payments for grants approved in prior fiscal years.
- Amount of funding distributed through gaming payments, based on the Gaming Framework Agreement and applicable legislation.
 - The ministry provided a total of \$120.6 million to the First Nations Trust, Community Development Corporations and the Clarence Campeau Development Fund.
- Number of acres transferred to reserve status to meet TLE agreement obligations.
 - 4,376 acres were transferred to reserve status in 2024-25. A total of 893,181 acres has been transferred to date which is an increase of 1,311 acres over last fiscal year.

Progress on Goal 3: The Government Relations teams demonstrate our commitment to excellence.

A strong public service supports strong Saskatchewan communities. Government Relations works to uphold the Government of Saskatchewan's commitment to excellence by promoting innovation and collaboration in our work with partners, working transparently and efficiently, and investing in opportunities to better understand and serve all Saskatchewan citizens.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*

Support learning to work and engage with partners in a changing technology environment.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Coordinate learning opportunities across the ministry to increase familiarity with digital tools to engage with municipalities and fill gaps in professional competencies.
 - In 2024-25, 15 staff members were involved in change management training. A network of ministry change agents has been established to support and guide people in adopting new systems and process improvements.
- Explore solutions to streamline program delivery and client communication.
 - The ministry hired a Corporate Change Manager to lead the development and implementation of change initiatives aimed at improving operational efficiency and client engagement.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*

Support continuous improvement of a high-performing team.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Continue to enable ministry staff to access the mandatory Indigenous Awareness training to increase understanding of the history and cultures of Indigenous communities across Canada.
 - Approximately 87 per cent of staff completed the Indigenous Awareness training to gain knowledge and awareness meant to enhance relationships and the delivery of services to Indigenous people within the organization and with the public.
- Participate in events that recognize Indigenous commemorative and awareness days including National Indigenous Peoples Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
 - The ministry supported and encouraged employees to attend Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day events and other commemorations.
- Coordinate learning and development opportunities to improve teamwork, collaboration and productivity among staff.
 - The ministry held a virtual all-staff day. The theme was Working Better Together. It provided the opportunity for staff to hear what "working together" means from

different levels and ministry locations. It also included learning sessions for staff to develop their skills and support work effectiveness and efficiency.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*

Support accountability and the efficient and effective use of government resources.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Ensure efficient and responsible use of resources.
 - As of March 31, 2025, 93 per cent of staff completed all mandatory training.
 - The ministry held a cyberfraud awareness training with Regina Police Services' Financial Crimes division. This training enhanced staff awareness and vigilance against cyber fraud, equipping staff with the knowledge to recognize fraudulent tactics, respond appropriately to potential threats, and safeguard both personal and organizational information from cybercriminals.
- Improve information management throughout the ministry.
 - In 2024-25, the ministry's Business Improvement Unit received 15 new intake requests highlighting opportunities to improve information management through system enhancements, automation, integration, user experience and scalability.
 - The ministry utilises its intranet to distribute information to staff and maintain up to date information.

Strategy: *The approach we took to achieve our goal*

Demonstrate our commitment to excellence by prioritizing the one team approach to achieving ministry goals.

Key Actions: *What we did to get there*

- Support projects developed by ministry committees to improve culture, safety, wellness and productivity.
 - The ministry committees began developing an optimized orientation process for new staff. This aims to ensure that new staff are welcomed and included while ensuring standard orientation information, staff training requirements and safety protocols are understood.
- Provide opportunities for staff to collaborate with other branches within the ministry and government entities outside of Government Relations.
 - In 2024-25, the ministry developed the Colleague's Coffee Chat initiative to foster connections, encourage knowledge sharing and promote professional growth.

Performance Measure Results:

High performing team

- Percentage of staff participating in learning and development opportunities.
 - Mandatory training saw 93 per cent staff engagement as of March 31, 2025.
 - The ministry conducted a Cyberfraud Awareness Training session in collaboration with the Financial Crimes division of Regina Police Services, achieving an 87 per cent participation rate.
 - As of March 2025, 87 per cent of ministry staff completed Indigenous Awareness training.
- Percentage of staff participating in ministry activities and events.
 - On April 11, 2024, 75 per cent of staff attended a virtual town hall hosted by Government Relations to discuss the 2023-24 Year in Review as well as the 2024-25 Business Plan and priorities to support staff in developing their 2024-25 workplans.

2024-25 Improvement and Innovation Highlights

<p>1</p>	<p>The Ministry of Government Relations is building awareness of the Saskatchewan First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework (CPF) and its associated fund. The grant process is being reviewed to improve service delivery and to allow the ministry to process grant applications within seven days of receipt. By building awareness of the CPF and its fund and providing prompt responses to grant applications, the ministry supports First Nation and Métis community participation in the duty to consult process. This advances reconciliation, promotes economic investment, and enhances First Nation and Métis communities’ participation in Saskatchewan’s growing economy, while building meaningful and productive relationships between First Nation and Métis communities, government and proponents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ministry achieved faster grant application processing to support timely participation and efficient delivery. The grant application form used by communities has been continually reviewed for efficiencies, with the last update made in January 2025 to make the form easier to fill out for communities. • 96 per cent of all grant applications received for the 2024-25 fiscal year (excluding those submitted during the writ period) were processed and approved within seven calendar days, the timeline outlined in the CPF.
<p>2</p>	<p>The Community Planning Branch’s Integrated Subdivision Approval Program uses an online portal to instantly receive subdivision applications, eliminating mail delays. The branch also identifies groups not using the portal and proactively offers training sessions to promote the portal’s efficiency. An efficient subdivision approval process benefits Saskatchewan’s economy by promoting growth and development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Saskatchewan Land Planning and Development Application is a software program that provides online services for processing subdivision applications and improving customer service. It replaced the paper-based workflow, allowing for online applications and payments. • In 2024-25, the ministry received 810 subdivision applications online through the portal. This improved client service and increased efficiency by leveraging digital integrations and automation.

Financial Summary

Expense Summary

The 2024-25 appropriation budget was \$843.6 million. Actual expenditure was \$770.7 million. This is a \$72.9 million decrease. This decrease primarily reflects:

- Lower than anticipated infrastructure grant payments (\$103.3 million).
- Lower than budgeted costs for the Codes Acceleration Fund initiative as it is no longer proceeding (\$2.2 million).
- Lower than anticipated municipal transfers (\$0.6 million).
- Lower transfers for the Tax Loss Compensation Fund and First Nation and Métis sponsorships and engagements (\$0.4 million).

Partially offset by:

- An increase for First Nations Gaming Agreements and the Métis Development Fund (\$29.5 million).
- An increase for Treaty Land Entitlement accruals (\$3.2 million).
- An increase for the First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund (\$0.5 million).
- An increase for the Provincial Capital Commission (\$0.4 million).

The following table summarizes budgeted versus actual expenses by subvote and subprogram. Variance explanations are provided for all variances that are greater than five per cent and \$100,000.

**Ministry of Government Relations
Expense Actuals**

Subvote/Subprogram	2023-24 Actuals (\$000s)	2024-25 Budget (\$000s)	2024-25 Actuals (\$000s)	2023-24 Variance (\$000s)	Notes
Central Management and Services (GR01)	7,936	7,629	7,730	101	
Minister's Salary	54	56	56	-	
Executive Management	959	1,009	772	(237)	1
Central Services	5,302	5,098	5,351	253	
Accommodations Services	1,621	1,466	1,551	85	
First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs (GR12)	134,482	97,274	130,113	32,839	
First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs	4,205	4,768	4,681	(87)	
Treaty Land Entitlement	1,192	335	3,325	2,990	2
First Nations and Métis Consultation	1,535	1,000	1,478	478	3
Participation Fund	3,203	2,477	3,664	1,187	4
Métis Development Fund	124,347	88,694	116,965	28,271	4
First Nations Gaming Agreements					
Municipal Relations (GR07)	650,015	729,545	623,752	(105,793)	
Urban Revenue Sharing	190,231	218,093	217,428	(665)	
Rural Revenue Sharing	85,017	96,968	97,100	132	
Northern Revenue Sharing	21,996	25,178	25,135	(43)	
New Building Canada Fund	10,376	9,000	5,065	(3,935)	5
Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program	237,885	271,750	175,066	(96,684)	6
Transit Assistance for People with Disabilities	3,787	3,787	3,787	-	
Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes	13,753	14,100	14,133	33	
Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency	11,388	12,288	12,288	-	
Municipal Relations	6,997	7,484	7,767	283	
Canada Community-Building Fund	67,516	67,835	65,094	(2,741)	
Building and Technical Standards	1,069	3,062	889	(2,173)	7
Saskatchewan Municipal Board (GR06)	1,271	1,886	1,481	(405)	1
Provincial Capital Commission (GR14)	7,274	7,274	7,678	404	
Provincial Capital Commission	7,274	7,274	7,678	404	8
Total Appropriation	800,978	843,608	770,754	(72,854)	
Less Capital Asset Acquisitions	(477)	-	-	-	
Plus Capital Asset Amortization	91	100	91	(9)	
Total Expense	800,592	843,708	770,845	(72,863)	

Notes:

1. Vacancy management and miscellaneous operating under-expenditure.
2. Over-expenditure for Treaty Land Entitlements reflecting adjustments to existing accruals for a contingent liability based on new census data provided by the federal government.
3. Over-expenditure reflecting increased activity of the fund.
4. Over-expenditure reflecting higher actual net casino profits and online gaming profits from 2023-24, along with updated 2024-25 forecasts.
5. Under-expenditure reflecting projects not progressing as quickly as anticipated as the program winds down.
6. Under-expenditure reflecting a small number of large projects not progressing as quickly as anticipated.
7. Under-expenditure reflecting the Codes Acceleration Fund initiative no longer proceeding.
8. Over-expenditure reflecting increased transfers to offset increased salaries and for costs to maintain the Holodomor monument in Wascana Park.

Revenue Summary

The 2024-25 revenue budget was \$884.9 million. Actual revenue was \$848.6 million. This is a \$36.3 million decrease over budget. This decrease is primarily attributed to:

- A decrease of revenue to reflect decreased expenditures for federal/provincial infrastructure programs (\$49.6 million).
- A decrease of federal funding for the Codes Acceleration Fund initiative (\$2.3 million).

Partially offset by:

- An increase to reclassify a portion of Education Property Tax (EPT) to grants-in-lieu (\$8.9 million).
- An increase for EPT levy (\$5.7 million).
- An increase to reclassify a portion of EPT revenue for trailer fees (\$0.6 million).
- An increase for refunds to the General Revenue Fund, primarily for infrastructure programs where actual amounts were lower than what was accrued in prior years (\$0.3 million).
- An increase of miscellaneous from across the ministry (\$0.1 million).

The ministry's major revenue relates to EPT and agreements with the federal government. All revenue collected is deposited in the General Revenue Fund. A summary of the ministry's 2024-25 budgeted revenue compared to actual revenue is presented below. Explanations are provided for all variances that are greater than \$100,000.

Ministry of Government Relations
Revenue Actuals

Revenue Category	2024-25 Budget (\$000s)	2024-25 Actuals (\$000s)	2024-25 Variance (\$000s)	Notes
Property Taxes	668,900	674,600	5,700	
Education Property Taxes	668,900	674,600	5,700	1
Other Licences and Permits	554	1,204	650	
Subdivision Fees	550	580	30	
Building Official Licencing Fees	4	8	4	
Other Rental and Leases	-	616	616	2
Sales, Services and Service Fees	75	142	67	
Debenture Authorization	40	60	20	
Miscellaneous Services	5	2	(3)	
Other Service Fees	30	66	36	
Documentation, Searches and Other Fees	-	14	14	
Other Miscellaneous Revenue	-	9,246	9,246	
Change in Previous Year's Expenditures	-	262	262	3
Casual/Other Revenue	-	8,984	8,984	4
Other Federal/Provincial Agreements	215,440	163,451	(51,989)	
Canada Community-Building Fund	67,835	66,733	(1,102)	5
Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program	145,110	96,827	(48,283)	6
New Building Canada Fund	150	385	235	7
Clean Water Wastewater Fund	-	(494)	(494)	8
Codes Acceleration Fund	2,345	-	(2,345)	9
Total Revenue	884,969	848,643	(36,326)	

Notes:

1. Increased revenue reflecting the actual growth rate of the assessment base being higher than the projected growth rate.
2. Reclassification of a portion of EPT revenue for trailer fees.
3. Increased revenue reflecting refunds to the General Revenue Fund primarily for infrastructure programs, where actual amounts were lower than what was accrued in prior years.
4. Reclassification of a portion of EPT revenue to grants-in-lieu.
5. Decreased revenue reflecting funding for the new agreement being lower than anticipated.
6. Decreased revenue reflecting projects progressing slower than anticipated.
7. Increased revenue reflecting projects proceeding quicker than anticipated as the program winds down.
8. Decreased revenue reflecting the reversal of an outstanding accounts receivable from the federal government that will not be collected as the program has winded down.
9. Decreased revenue reflecting the program is no longer proceeding, therefore federal revenue was not received.

Additional financial information can be found in the Government of Saskatchewan Public Accounts located at <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/categories/893>

